

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07060 240521 Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 DPW-01 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 015274

P R 240353 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 623

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7060

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, APRIL 21-23, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 417

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, APRIL 21-23

1. SUMMARY: WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN MOST SERIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENT IN MR 2 SINCE CEASE- FIRE MARRED EASTER WEEKEND. OTHERWISE, MILITARY ACTION REMAINED CONSTANT IN LEVEL AND PATTERN. CANDEL REPORTEDLY SURVEYING SECURITY OF SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS AND UNDERTAKING INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF GVN' S ESTIMATE OF ENEMY INFILTRATION AND RESUPPLY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MAJOR INCIDENT OVER WEEKEND, ON WHICH FILL DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, WAS DETONATION OF GRENADE OR OTHER EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AT EASTER FESTIVITIES AT A HAMLET IN NINH THUAN. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY REPORTS, 12 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 81 WOUNDED. LOCATION WAS PHUOC THIEN HAMLET (PN.713.845), PHUOC CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07060 240521 Z

SON VILLAGE, BUU SON DISTRICT. TIME WAS APPROX 2110 H ON APRIL 22.

3. OTHERWISE, LEVEL AND PATTERN OF MILITARY ACTIVITY APPEARED TO REMAIN THE SAME AS IN RECENT DAYS. BY OUR COUNT THERE WERE 13

ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS APRIL 20 AND 11 ON APRIL 22, WITH NO REGION- WIDE FIGURES AVAILABLE IN NHA TRANG FOR APRIL 21 SINCE LOCAL BRANCH OF MR 2 STAFF TAKES SUNDAY OFF AND DOES NOT COMPILE INCIDENT REPORT FOR SATURDAY.

4. IN APRIL 20 ACTION, BINH DINH AND PHU YEN EACH REPORTED FOUR INCIDENTS, BINH THUAN TWO, AND KONTUM, DARLAC AND QUANG DUC ONE EACH. EIGHT WERE MININGS, THREE WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND ONLY TWO WERE GROUND ATTACKS, ONE ON AN RF BATTALION AND ANOTHER (REFERRED TO IN WEEKLY OVERVIEW) A SINGLE INCIDENT INVOLVING DOUBLE GROUND ATTACK ON RF COMPANY NEAR CONTESTED HIGH GROUND 15 KMS WSW OF KONTUM CITY. AGGREGATE CASUALTIES APRIL 20 WERE: RVNAF; ONE KIA, 16 WIA; ENEMY, 12 KIA (FIVE OF THESE IN EXPLOSION OF A VC MINE); AND ONE CIVILIAN KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED.

5. APRIL 22 ACTION LIGHT AND SIMILARLY SCATTERED, WITH FOUR INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH, THREE IN PHU YEN, AND ONE EACH IN PLEIKU, PHU BON, LAM DONG AND NINH THUAN. THE FOUR GROUND ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST AN ARVN BATTALION IN BINH DINH, A RANGER PLATOON IN PLEIKU, AND RF BATTALION IN PHU YEN, AND AN RF COMPANY PROVIDING SECURITY FOR AN ENGINEER UNIT WORKING ON ROUTE 7- B IN EXTREME SOUTHEASTERN PHU BON. ALL FOUR OF THESE ATTACKS WERE COSTLY TO THE ENEMY, WHO HAD 16 KIA AND ONE CAPTURED; FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE TEN WOUNDED. OTHER EIGHT INCIDENTS (EXCLUSIVE OF NINH THUAN EXPLOSION, PARA 2 ABOVE) WERE MININGS AND LIGHT ABF' S; CASUALTIES WERE RVNAF, TWO KIA, FOUR WIA; ENEMY, ONE KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED; AND THREE CIVILIANS WOUNDED.

6. WORK BY ARVN ENGINEERS ON ROUTE 7- B FROM SON HOA DISTRICT, PHU YEN, ON INTO PHU BON CONTINUES BUT HAS BEEN SPOTTY. ACCORDING TO PHU YEN SECTOR, ONE ENGINEER COMPANY ON APRIL 20 CLEARED ROUTE 7- B FROM SON HOA TO PROVINCE BORDER BUT THEN DROVE STRAIGHT THROUGH PHU BON PROVINCE TO PLEIKU INSTEAD OF RETURNING FOR FURTHER WORK ON A 10- KILOMETER STRETCH IN EASTERN SON HOA DISTRICT AS PHU YEN SECTOR HAD WANTED. USAID REP IN PHU BON REPORTS THAT ROUTE 7- B IN SOUTH- EASTERN PART OF THAT PROVINCE CAN NOT TAKE LIGHT TRAFFIC, BUT THERE ARE STILL NUMEROUS TEMPORARY BYPASSES THAT WILL NOT BE USEABLE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07060 240521 Z

DURING MONSOON SEASON. HE NOTES ALSO THAT ENEMY MAY BEGIN MINING THE ROAD IN PHU BON ONCE TRAFFIC STARTS USING IT; THIS HAS HAPPENED REGULARLY IN PHU YEN.

7. ICCS : KONTUM POLOFF HAS LEARNED THAT A MAJOR DAVIE, EVIDENTLY FROM CANADIAN DELEGATION IN SAIGON, HAS BEEN TOURING TEAM SITES IN CEASE- FIRE REGION 3 BOTH TO ASSESS SITE SECURITY AND TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ON THE NVA/ VC. DAVIE' S STUDY OF SUB- REGION SITES REPORTEDLY INDICATES THAT THOSE IN KONTUM AND TUY AN (PHU YEN PROVINCE) ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER CANDEL, INTELLIGENCE- GATHERING ASPECT OF DAVIE' S TOUR REFLECTS CANDEL SUSPICION THAT THE GVN IS DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATING THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES AND NUMBER OF MEN BEING INFILTRATED INTO SVN.

8. KONTUM SUB- REGIONAL TEAM " COMPLETED" FIVE MORE INVESTIGATIONS WEEK OF APRIL 16-20, BRINGING ITS TOTAL TO NINE IN TWO- MONTH PERIOD SINCE TEAM ARRIVED. ALL INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED HAD BEEN CITED BY GVN. ONLY IN TWO OR THREE OF THESE WAS THERE A UNANIMOUS FINDING, ALWAYS THAT NO CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN FROM EVIDENCE SUBMITTED. IN OTHER CASES, CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS REPORTS TO REGIONAL HQ AT PLEIKU FOUND VIOLATIONS BY NVA/ VC, WHEREAS POLES AND HUNGARIANS INSISTED IN ALL SUCH CASES EITHER THAT RVNAF ITSELF COMMITTED A VIOLATION OR THAT EVIDENCE DID NOT JUSTIFY ANY CONCLUSION AT ALL. MEANWHILE, CANDELS SAY THAT EAST EUROPEANS IN LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE NOT MODIFIED THEIR UNCOOPERATIVE POSTURE IN THE SLIGHTEST; THEY CONTINUE FINDING PRETEXTS FOR DELAYS, ASKING IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS OF WITNESSES, AND JUMPING ON MINOR DISCREPANCIES IN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT ALL TESTIMONY.

9. BAN ME THUOT CANDEL RECENTLY TOLD POLOFF THAT HE AND COMPATRIOTS USE ORIENTATION TOURS TO NOTE WHICH VILLAGES ARE CONTROLLED BY GVN. INFORMATION THUS DERIVED IS SENT TO SAIGON AND COMPILED ON MASTER MAP WHICH WILL BE USED IN FUTURE IF QUESTION OF CONTROL ARISES. (CONGEN COMMENT: NOT CLEAR WHETHER GVN IS AWARE OF THIS PRACTICE, BUT IF SO, GVN SHOULD BE PLEASED.)

10. BOTH BMT CANDELS WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT APRIL 21 WHEN THEY SWERVED INTO DITCH TO AVOID AN ERRANT HONDA. THEY WERE MEDEVACED TO PLEIKU, WHERE LIEUTENANT REMAINS FOR OBSERVATION; MAJOR IS ALREADY BACK IN BMT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 07060 240521 Z

11. LATE ITEM: REPORT FROM PHU YEN ON PERIOD NOT COVERED BY NHA TRANG BRIEFING INDICATES THAT VC ON APRIL 21 MINED A TRAIN EN ROUTE FROM TUY HOA TO TUY AN. INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ABOUT 15 KMS NORTH OF TUY HOA, WITHIN TUY AN DISTRICT. LOCOMOTIVE WAS 50 PERCENT DAMAGED AND ENGINEER WIA.
ENGLE UNQUOTE
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON07060
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730460/abqcehpw.tel
Line Count: 149
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980130
Subject: MR 2 SITREP, APRIL 21-23, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
To: STATE INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005